IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for operating a router, comprising:

establishing a first VLAN from a port connected to a shared network to a plurality of user ports, the first VLAN receiving packets from the shared network and transferring them to a designated user port, the first VLAN rejecting~~unable to receive~~ packets from ~~a~~ the user ports;

establishing a second VLAN from the plurality of user ports, the second VLAN receiving packets from the user ports and transferring them to the port connected to the shared network, the second VLAN ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer of packets from one of the user ports ~~to~~ other user ports, and the second VLAN also rejecting ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the shared network, in order to separate packet traffic of different users.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as in claim 1, further comprising:

dividing the plurality of user ports into groups of user ports, each group of user ports assigned to a single designated user; and

establishing a third VLAN from ~~the plurality~~ a first group of user ports, the third VLAN receiving packets from the first group of user ports and transferring them to the port connected to the shared network, the third VLAN able to transfer packets ~~to other~~ among user ports belonging to ~~a~~ the first group of user ports, the third VLAN preventing ~~unable to~~ transfer of packets to other user ports belonging to a group different from the first group of user ports, the third VLAN rejecting ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the shared network.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

means for establishing a first VLAN from a port connected to a shared network to a plurality of user ports, the first VLAN receiving packets from the shared network and transferring them to a designated user port, the first VLAN rejecting ~~unable to receive~~ packets from ~~a~~ the user ports;

means for establishing a second VLAN from the plurality of user ports, the second VLAN receiving packets from the user ports and transferring them to the port connected to the shared network, the second VLAN ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer packets from one of the user ports to other user ports, and the second VLAN also rejecting ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the shared network, in order to separate packet traffic of different users.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The router as in claim 3, further comprising:

means for dividing the plurality of user ports into groups of user ports, each group of user ports assigned to a single designated user; and

means for establishing a third VLAN from ~~the plurality~~ a first group of user ports, the third VLAN receiving packets from the first group of user ports and transferring them to the port connected to the shared network, the third VLAN able to transfer packets ~~to other~~ among user ports belonging to ~~a~~ the first group of user ports, the third VLAN preventing~~unable to~~ transfer of packets to other user ports belonging to a group different from the first group of user ports, the third VLAN rejecting ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the shared network.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

a port connected to a shared network;

a plurality of user ports;

a first VLAN from the port connected to ~~a~~the shared network to the plurality of user ports, the first VLAN to receive ~~ing~~ packets from the shared network and transferring them to a designated user port, the first VLAN to reject ~~unable to receive~~ packets from ~~a~~ the user port~~s~~;

a second VLAN from the plurality of user ports, the second VLAN to receive ~~ing~~ packets from the user ports and transferring them to the port connected to the shared network, the second VLAN to prevent ~~unable to~~ transfer of packets from one of the user ports to other user ports, and the second VLAN also to reject ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the shared network, in order to separate packet traffic of different users.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The router as in claim 5, further comprising:

a third VLAN from ~~the plurality of~~ a first group user ports of a ~~, the~~ plurality of ~~user ports divided into~~ groups of user ports, ~~and~~ each group of user ports assigned to a single designated user, the third VLAN to receive ~~ing~~ packets from the user ports and transfere ~~ring~~ them to the port connected to the shared network, the third VLAN able to transfer packets ~~to other~~ among user ports belonging to ~~a~~the first group of user ports, the third VLAN to prevent ~~unable to~~ transfer of packets to other user ports belonging to a group different from the first group of user ports, the third VLAN to reject~~unable to receive~~ packets from the shared network.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

one or more promiscuous ports;

one or more isolated ports;

one or more community ports;

a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to a selected one of the one or more isolated ports and to transfer the packets to the one or more community ports, the primary VLAN to reject ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the one or more isolated ports and to reject ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the one or more community ports;

an isolated VLAN, the isolated VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router through an isolated port of the one or more isolated ports and to transfer the packets to the one or more promiscuous ports, the isolated VLAN to prevent ~~unable to~~ transfer of the packets from the isolated port to another isolated port of the one or more isolated ports, and the isolated VLAN to prevent ~~unable to~~ transfer of the packets from the isolated port to the one or more ~~a~~ community ports, and the isolated VLAN to reject ~~unable to receive~~ packets from ~~a~~ the one or more promiscuous ports; and

a community VLAN, the community VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router at a community port of the one or more community ports and to transfer the packets to

the one or more ~~a~~ promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to any other community ports, the community VLAN to prevent ~~unable to~~ transfer of packets to ~~a~~ the one or more isolated ports, the community VLAN ~~unable~~ to ~~receive~~ reject packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The router as in claim 7, further comprising:

a promiscuous port of the one or more promiscuous ports connected to a shared network, the shared network carrying packet traffic of a first user and packet traffic of a second user; and

a first isolated port of the one or more isolated ports connected to a local area network (LAN) assigned to the first user, and a second isolated port of the one or more isolated ports connected to a LAN assigned to the second user, in order to separate the packet traffic of the first user and the second user.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The router as in claim 7, further comprising:

a plurality of sets of community ports; and

a community VLAN for each set of community ports, ~~a~~the community VLAN for a ~~designated~~ particular set of community ports ~~unable~~ to prevent transfer packets to another set of community ports.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The router as in claim 7, further comprising:

a promiscuous port of the one or more promiscuous ports connected to a shared network, the shared network carrying packet traffic of a first user and packet traffic of a second user; and

a first set of community ports of the one or more community ports connected to a local area network (LAN) assigned to the first user, and a second set of community ports of the one or more community ports connected to a LAN assigned to the second user, in order to separate the packet traffic of the first user and the second user.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

one or more promiscuous ports;

one or more isolated ports;

a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to a selected one of the one or more isolated ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable~~ to reject ~~receive~~ packets from the one or more isolated ports; and

an isolated VLAN, the isolated VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router through an isolated port of the one or more isolated ports and to transfer the packets to the one or more promiscuous ports, the isolated VLAN to prevent ~~unable to~~ transfer of the packets from the isolated port to another isolated port of the one or more isolated ports, and the isolated VLAN ~~unable~~ to reject ~~receive~~ packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

one or more promiscuous ports;

one or more community ports;

a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to a selected one of the one or more isolated ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable~~ to reject ~~receive~~ packets from the one or more isolated ports; and

a community VLAN, the community VLAN to receive packets from outside the router at a community port of the one or more community ports and to transfer the packets to the one or more ~~a~~ promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to any other community ports of the one or more community ports, the community VLAN ~~unable~~ to reject ~~receive~~ packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

one or more promiscuous ports;

one or more other ports;

a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to a selected one of the one or more other ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable~~ to reject ~~receive~~ packets from the one or more other ports; and

a second VLAN, the second VLAN to receive packets from outside the router at ~~a~~the one or more other ports and to transfer the packets to ~~a~~the one or more promiscuous ports, the second VLAN ~~unable~~ to ~~receive~~ reject packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The router as in claim 13, further comprising:

said second VLAN to transfer the packets to the one or more other ports.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

one or more promiscuous ports;

one or more other ports;

a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to the one or more other ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable~~ to reject ~~receive~~ packets from the one or more other ports; and

a second VLAN, the second VLAN to receive packets from outside the router at a one or more other ports and to transfer the packets to a promiscuous port of the one or more promiscuous ports, the second VLAN ~~unable~~ to ~~receive~~ reject packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The router as in claim 15, further comprising:

the one or more other ports ~~is~~ are one or more ~~an~~ isolated ports.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The router as in claim 15, further comprising:

the one or more other ports ~~is~~ are one or more ~~a~~ community ports.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for using a router, comprising:

establishing one or more promiscuous ports;

establishing one or more isolated ports;

establishing one or more community ports;

receiving ~~a~~ packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving the packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to a selected one of the one or more isolated ports and transferring the packets to the one or more community ports, the primary VLAN rejecting ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the one or more isolated ports and ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more community ports;

receiving ~~a~~ packets by an isolated VLAN, the isolated VLAN receiving the packets from outside of the router through an isolated port of the one or more isolated ports and transferring the packets to the one or more promiscuous ports, the isolated VLAN preventing ~~unable to~~ transfer of the packets from the isolated port to another isolated port of the one or more isolated ports, and the isolated VLAN ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer ofthe packets from the isolated port to the one or more ~~a~~ community ports, and the isolated VLAN rejecting ~~unable to receive~~ packets from ~~a~~ the one or more promiscuous ports; and

receiving ~~a~~ packets by a community VLAN, the community VLAN receiving packets from outside of the router at a community port of the one or more community ports and transferring the packets to the one or more ~~a~~ promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to any other community ports, the community VLAN preventing ~~unable to~~ transfer of packets to a the one or more isolated ports, and the community VLAN rejecting ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

connecting a promiscuous port of the one or more promiscuous ports to a shared network, the shared network carrying packet traffic of a first user and packet traffic of a second user; and

connecting a first isolated port of the one or more isolated ports to a local area network (LAN) assigned to the first user, and connecting a second isolated port of the one or more isolated ports to a LAN assigned to the second user, in order to separate the packet traffic of the first user and the second user.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

establishing a plurality of sets of community ports; and

connecting a community VLAN for each set of community ports, ~~a~~ the community VLAN for a ~~designated~~ particular set of community ports ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer of packets to another set of community ports.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

connecting a promiscuous port of the one or more promiscuous ports to a shared network, the shared network carrying packet traffic of a first user and packet traffic of a second user; and

connecting a first set of community ports of the one or more community ports to a local area network (LAN) assigned to the first user, and connecting a second set of community ports of the one or more community ports connected to a LAN assigned to the second user, in order to separate the packet traffic of the first user and the second user.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for using a router, comprising:

establishing one or more promiscuous ports;

establishing one or more isolated ports;

receiving ~~a~~ packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to a selected one of the one or more isolated ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to~~ rejecting receive packets from the one or more isolated ports; and

receiving ~~a~~ packets by an isolated VLAN, the isolated VLAN receiving packets from outside of the router through an isolated port of the one or more isolated ports and transfer-

ring the packets to the one or more promiscuous ports, the isolated VLAN ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer of the packets from the isolated port to another isolated port of the one or more isolated ports, and the isolated VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for using a router, comprising:

establishing one or more promiscuous ports;

establishing one or more community ports;

receiving ~~a~~ packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to the one or more community ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more community ports; and

receiving ~~a~~ packets by a community VLAN, the community VLAN receiving packets from outside the router at a community port of the one or more community ports and transferring the packets to ~~a~~ the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to any other community ports of the one or more community ports, the community VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for using a router, comprising:

establishing one or more promiscuous ports;

establishing one or more other ports;

receiving ~~a~~ packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to a selected one of the one or more other ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more other ports; and

receiving ~~a~~ packets by a second VLAN, the second VLAN receiving packets from outside the router at ~~a~~ the one or more other ports and transferring the packets to ~~a~~ the one or more promiscuous ports, the second VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The~~A~~ method as in claim 24, further comprising:

transferring the packets by the second VLAN to the one or more other ports.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for using a router, comprising:

establishing one or more promiscuous ports;

establishing one or more other ports;

receiving ~~a~~ packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to the one or more other ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more other ports; and

receiving ~~a~~ packets by a second VLAN, the second VLAN receiving packets from outside the router at a one or more other ports and transferring the packets to a promiscuous port of the one or more promiscuous ports, the second VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The~~A~~ method as in claim 26, further comprising:

establishing the one or more other ports as one or more ~~an~~ isolated ports.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The~~A~~ method as in claim 26, further comprising:

establishing the one or more other ports as ~~a~~ one or more community ports.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

means for establishing one or more promiscuous ports;

means for establishing one or more isolated ports;

means for establishing one or more community ports;

means for receiving ~~a~~ packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving the packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to a selected one of the one or more isolated ports and transferring the pack-

ets to the one or more community ports, the primary VLAN rejecting ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the one or more isolated ports and ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more community ports;

means for receiving ~~a~~ packets by an isolated VLAN, the isolated VLAN receiving the packets from outside of the router through an isolated port of the one or more isolated ports and transferring the packets to the one or more promiscuous ports, the isolated VLAN preventing ~~unable to~~ transfer of the packets from the isolated port to another isolated port of the one or more isolated ports, and the isolated VLAN ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer ofthe packets from the isolated port to the one or more ~~a~~ community ports, and the isolated VLAN rejecting ~~unable to receive~~ packets from ~~a~~ the one or more promiscuous ports; and

means for receiving ~~a~~ packets by a community VLAN, the community VLAN receiving packets from outside of the router at a community port of the one or more community ports and transferring the packets to the one or more ~~a~~ promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to any other community ports, the community VLAN preventing ~~unable to~~ transfer of packets to ~~a~~ the one or more isolated ports, and the community VLAN rejecting ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The~~A~~ router as in claim 29 further comprising:

means for connecting a promiscuous port of the one or more promiscuous ports to a shared network, the shared network carrying packet traffic of a first user and packet traffic of a second user; and

means for connecting a first isolated port of the one or more isolated ports to a local area network (LAN) assigned to the first user, and connecting a second isolated port of the one or more isolated ports to a LAN assigned to the second user, in order to separate the packet traffic of the first user and the second user.

31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The~~A~~ router as in claim 29 further comprising:

means for establishing a plurality of sets of community ports; and

means for connecting a community VLAN for each set of community ports, ~~a~~ the community VLAN for a ~~designated~~ particular set of community ports ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer of packets to another set of community ports.

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The~~A~~ router as in claim 29 further comprising:

means for connecting a promiscuous port of the one or more promiscuous ports to a shared network, the shared network carrying packet traffic of a first user and packet traffic of a second user; and

means for connecting a first set of community ports of the one or more community ports to a local area network (LAN) assigned to the first user, and connecting a second set of community ports of the one or more community ports connected to a LAN assigned to the second user, in order to separate the packet traffic of the first user and the second user.

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

means for establishing one or more promiscuous ports;

means for establishing one or more isolated ports;

means for receiving ~~a~~ packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to a selected one of the one or more isolated ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to~~ rejecting receive packets from the one or more isolated ports; and

means for receiving ~~a~~ packets by an isolated VLAN, the isolated VLAN receiving packets from outside of the router through an isolated port of the one or more isolated ports and transferring the packets to the one or more promiscuous ports, the isolated VLAN ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer of the packets from the isolated port to another isolated port of the one or more isolated ports, and the isolated VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

means for establishing one or more promiscuous ports;

means for establishing one or more community ports;

means for receiving ~~a~~ packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to the one or more community ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more community ports; and

means for receiving ~~a~~ packets by a community VLAN, the community VLAN receiving packets from outside the router at a community port of the one or more community ports and transferring the packets to ~~a~~ the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to any other community ports of the one or more community ports, the community VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

means for establishing one or more promiscuous ports;

means for establishing one or more other ports;

means for receiving ~~a~~ packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to a selected one of the one or more other ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more other ports; and

means for receiving ~~a~~ packets by a second VLAN, the second VLAN receiving packets from outside the router at ~~a~~ the one or more other ports and transferring the packets to ~~a~~ the one or more promiscuous ports, the second VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

36. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The~~A~~ router as in claim 35, further comprising:

means for transferring the packets by the second VLAN to the one or more other ports.

37. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The~~A~~ router as in claim 35, further comprising:

means for establishing the one or more other ports as ~~an~~ one or more isolated ports.

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The~~A~~ router as in claim 35, further comprising:

means for establishing the one or more other ports ~~as~~ one or more a community ports.

39. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router to separate packet traffic ~~travelling~~traveling on a shared network, comprising:

a primary VLAN within the router, the primary VLAN to receive ~~ing~~ packets from the shared network through a promiscuous port and to transfer ~~ring~~ the packets to a selected one of a one or more isolated ports, the primary VLAN to reject ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the one or more isolated ports, a first local area network (LAN) of a first user connected to a first isolated port of the one or more isolated ports, and a second LAN of a second user connected to a second isolated port of the one or more isolated ports; and

a first isolated VLAN within the router, the first isolated VLAN to receive ~~ing~~ packets through an isolated port connected to the first LAN and to transfer ~~ring~~ the packets to the promiscuous port, the first isolated VLAN ~~unable~~ to prevent transfer of the packets from the isolated port connected to the first LAN to another isolated port, and the isolated VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more promiscuous ports; and

a second isolated VLAN within the router, the second isolated VLAN to receive ~~ing~~ packets through an isolated port connected to the second LAN and to transfer ~~ring~~ the packets to the promiscuous port, the ~~first~~ second isolated VLAN ~~unable~~ to prevent transfer of the packets from the isolated port connected to the second LAN to another isolated port, and the second isolated VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ to reject packets from the promiscuous port.

40. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method in a router for separating packet traffic ~~travelling~~traveling on a shared network, comprising:

receiving ~~a~~ packets by a primary VLAN within the router, the primary VLAN receiving packets from the shared network through a promiscuous port and transferring the packets to a selected one of a one or more isolated ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more isolated ports, a first local area network (LAN) of a first

user connected to a first isolated port of the one or more isolated ports, and a second LAN of a second user connected to a second isolated port of the one or more isolated ports; and

receiving ~~a~~ packets by a first isolated VLAN within the router, the first isolated VLAN receiving packets through an isolated port connected to the first LAN and transferring the packets to the promiscuous port, the first isolated VLAN ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer of the packets from the isolated port connected to the first LAN to another isolated port, and the first isolated VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more promiscuous ports; and

receiving ~~a~~ packets by a second isolated VLAN within the router, the second isolated VLAN receiving packets through an isolated port connected to the second LAN and transferring the packets to the promiscuous port, the ~~first~~ second isolated VLAN ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer of the packets from the isolated port connected to the second LAN to another isolated port, and the second isolated VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the promiscuous port.

41. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router to separate packet traffic ~~travelling~~traveling on a shared network, comprising:

means for receiving ~~a~~ packets by a primary VLAN within the router, the primary VLAN receiving packets from the shared network through a promiscuous port and transferring the packets to a selected one of a one or more isolated ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more isolated ports, a first local area network (LAN) of a first user connected to a first isolated port of the one or more isolated ports, and a second LAN of a second user connected to a second isolated port of the one or more isolated ports; and

means for receiving ~~a~~ packets by a first isolated VLAN within the router, the first isolated VLAN receiving packets through an isolated port connected to the first LAN and transferring the packets to the promiscuous port, the first isolated VLAN ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer of the packets from the isolated port connected to the first LAN to another isolated

port, and the first isolated VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more promiscuous ports; and

means for receiving ~~a~~ packets by a second isolated VLAN within the router, the second isolated VLAN receiving packets through an isolated port connected to the second LAN and transferring the packets to the promiscuous port, the ~~first~~ second isolated VLAN ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer of the packets from the isolated port connected to the second LAN to another isolated port, and the second isolated VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the promiscuous port.

42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router to separate packet traffic ~~travelling~~traveling on a shared network, comprising:

a primary VLAN within the router, the primary VLAN to receive ~~ing~~ packets from the shared network through a promiscuous port and to transfer ~~ring~~ the packets to a selected one of a one or more community ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable~~ to reject ~~receive~~ packets from the one or more community ports, a first group of local area network (LAN) of a first user connected to a first group of community ports of the one or more community ports, and a second group of LANs of a second user connected to a second group of community ports of the one or more community ports;

a first community VLAN within the router, the first community VLAN to receive ~~ing~~ packets through the first group of community ports connected to the first group of LANs and to transfer ~~ring~~ the packets to the promiscuous port, the first community VLAN ~~unable~~ to prevent transfer of the packets from the first group of community ports to the second group of community ports, and the first community VLAN ~~unable~~ to reject ~~receive~~ packets from the one or more promiscuous ports; and

a second community VLAN within the router, the second community VLAN to receive ~~ing~~ packets through the second group of community ports connected to the second group of LANs and to transfer ~~ring~~ the packets to the promiscuous port, the second community VLAN ~~unable~~ to prevent transfer of the packets to the first group of community ports,

and the second community VLAN to reject ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the promiscuous port.

43. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for separating packet traffic ~~travelling~~traveling on a shared network, comprising:

receiving packets from the shared network by a primary VLAN within the router, the primary VLAN receiving packets from the shared network through a promiscuous port and transferring the packets to a selected one of a one or more community ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more community ports, a first group of local area network (LAN) of a first user connected to a first group of community ports of the one or more community ports, and a second group of LANs of a second user connected to a second group of community ports of the one or more community ports;

receiving packets from a first group of community ports by a first community VLAN within the router, the first community VLAN receiving packets through the first group of community ports connected to the first group of LANs and transferring the packets to the promiscuous port, the first community VLAN ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer of the packets from the first group of community ports to the second group of community ports, and the first community VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more promiscuous ports; and

receiving packets from a second group of community ports by a second community VLAN within the router, the second community VLAN receiving packets through the second group of community ports connected to the second group of LANs and transferring the packets to the promiscuous port, the second community VLAN ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer of the packets to the first group of community ports, and the second community VLAN ~~unable~~ rejecting ~~to receive~~ packets from the promiscuous port.

44. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router to separate packet traffic ~~travelling~~traveling on a shared network, comprising:

means for receiving packets from the shared network by a primary VLAN within the router, the primary VLAN receiving packets from the shared network through a promiscuous port and transferring the packets to a selected one of a one or more community ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more community ports, a first group of local area network (LAN) of a first user connected to a first group of community ports of the one or more community ports, and a second group of LANs of a second user connected to a second group of community ports of the one or more community ports;

means for receiving packets from a first group of community ports by a first community VLAN within the router, the first community VLAN receiving packets through the first group of community ports connected to the first group of LANs and transferring the packets to the promiscuous port, the first community VLAN ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer of the packets from the first group of community ports to the second group of community ports, and the first community VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more promiscuous ports; and

means for receiving packets from a second group of community ports by a second community VLAN within the router, the second community VLAN receiving packets through the second group of community ports connected to the second group of LANs and transferring the packets to the promiscuous port, the second community VLAN ~~unable to~~ preventing transfer of the packets to the first group of community ports, and the second community VLAN ~~unable~~ rejecting ~~to receive~~ packets from the promiscuous port.

45. (CANCELLED)

46. (CANCELLED)

47. (NEW) A computer readable medium containing executable program instructions for operating a router, the executable program instructions comprising program instructions configured to:

establish a first VLAN from a port connected to a shared network to a plurality of user ports, the first VLAN to receive packets from the shared network and to transfer them to one or more of the user ports, the first VLAN to reject any packets received from the user ports;

establish a second VLAN from the plurality of user ports, the second VLAN to receive packets from the user ports and to transfer them to the port connected to the shared network, the second VLAN to prevent transfer of packets from one of the user ports to other user ports, and the second VLAN also to reject packets from the shared network, to thereby separate packet traffic of different users.

47. (NEW) A computer readable medium containing executable program instructions for operating a router, the executable program instructions comprising program instructions configured to:

establish a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to one or more community ports, the primary VLAN to reject packets received from the one or more community ports; and

establish a community VLAN, the community VLAN to receive packets from outside the router on a community port of the one or more community ports and to transfer the packets to the one or more promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to any other community ports of the one or more community ports, the community VLAN rejecting packets received from the one or more promiscuous ports.